

QUT Digital Repository:
<http://eprints.qut.edu.au/>



Fredericks, Bronwyn (2009) *Being and Living in an Australian Urban Community*. In: Native American and Indiegenuous Studies Association Meeting, 21-23 May 2009, University of Minnesota, United States of America. (Unpublished)

© Copyright 2009 Bronwyn Fredericks

Being and Living in an Australian Urban Community

Bronwyn Fredericks

Native American and Indigenous Studies Meeting

21-23 May 2009

University of Minnesota,
United States of America

Historical Snapshot

From the time of colonisation until the 1950s, Aboriginal presence in the cities was generally constructed as problematic.

Some Aboriginal families managed to survive in the cities even though policies actively sought their removal to reserve lands or to the city fringes or designated areas.

As the Acts that governed the movement of Aboriginal peoples freed up, Aboriginal people began to move across geographic areas.

Movement from remote coastal communities to big city urban areas or to regional urban towns and villages



Movement from remote inland communities to big city urban areas or to regional urban towns and villages

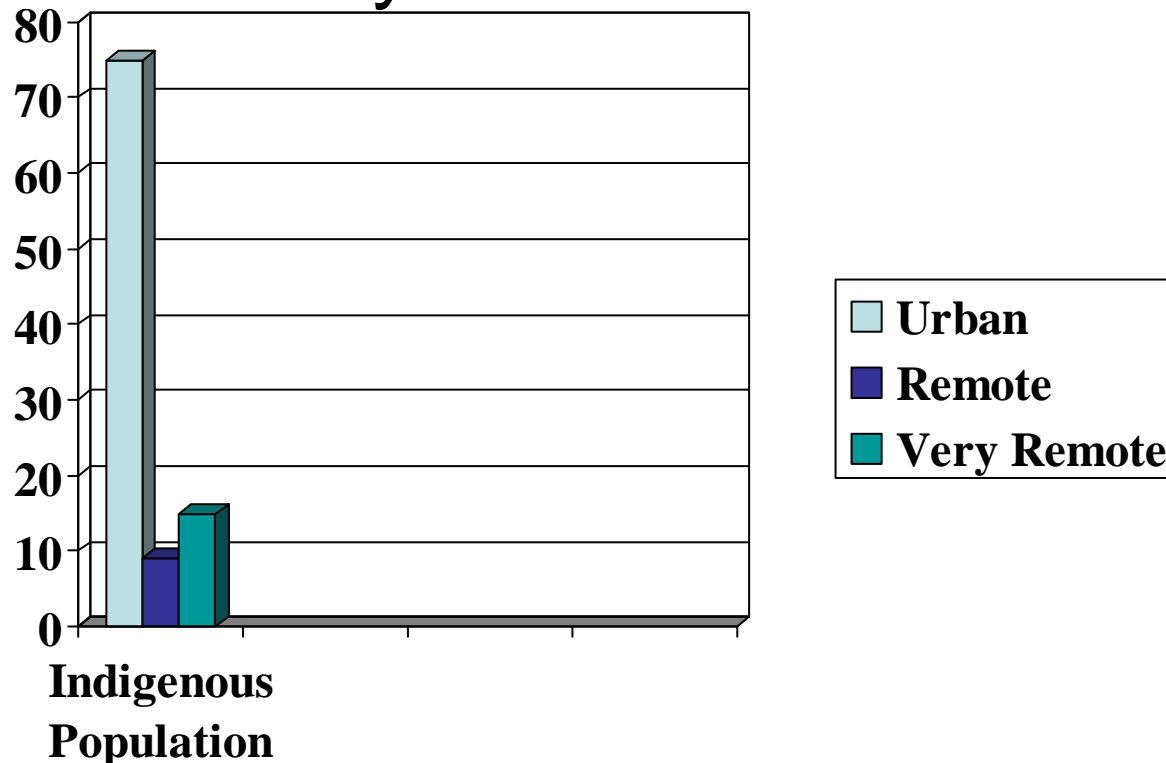


Connections to Place

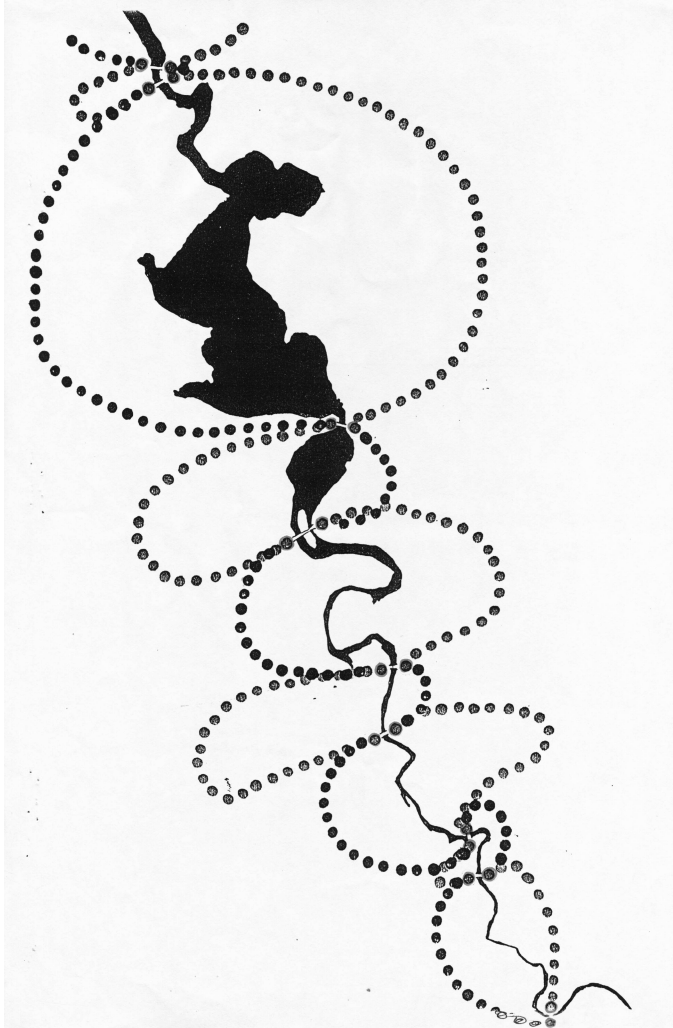
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still maintain a sense of feeling for the people and country “back home”.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may have links to their traditional lands and links to other parts of the country that have been created since colonisation.
- Some urban residents are Traditional Owners for that urban area just as there are Traditional Owners in other geographic areas.
- There is the traditional, the colonial and the contemporary connections to place.

Fact

Over 73.6% of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now live in city urban or inner or outer regional urban areas. 8.8 % live in remote areas and 17.7% live in very remote areas.



Where do we live?



Pamela Croft. 1990. *The Brisbane River*.

Queensland	125, 580 (State)
Brisbane	41, 369 (Capital of Queensland)
Victoria	30, 143 (State)
Melbourne	14, 132 (Capital of Victoria)
South Australia	25, 556 (State)
Adelaide	16, 996 (Capital of South Australia)
Tasmania	16, 768 (State)
New South Wales	138, 507 (State)
Sydney	41, 800 (Capital of NSW)

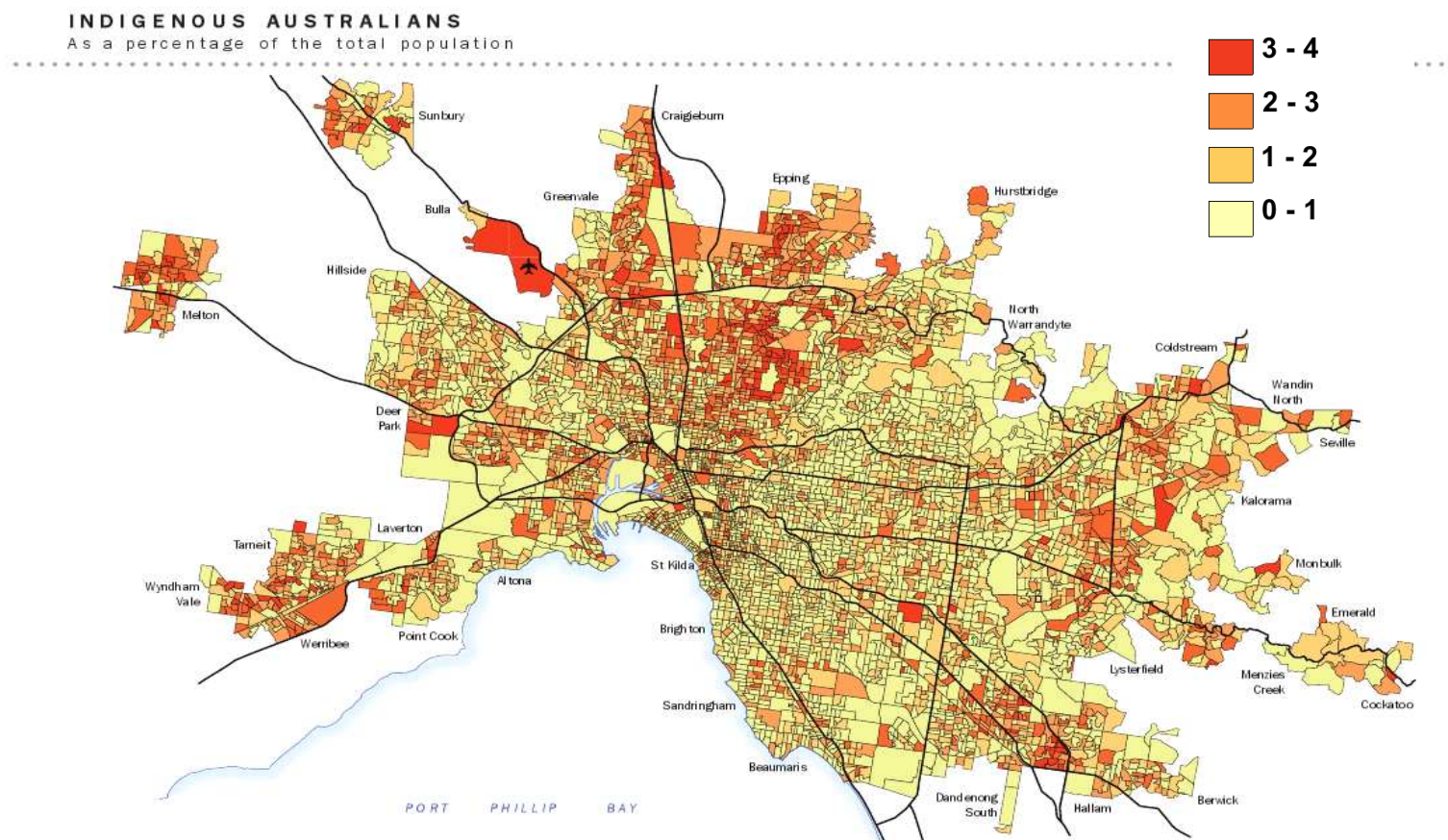
ABS. 2006. Population distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Australians. ABS: Canberra.

- 73.6% of Indigenous people in Australia now live in city urban or regional urban areas, 8.8% live in remote areas and 17.7% live in very remote areas.



- 27.5% (125, 580) of Australia's Indigenous people live in Queensland, 29.4% (138,507) live in New South Wales (NSW). Over half of Australia's Indigenous population or 56.9% lives in NSW & QLD).
- Over 50 % of Indigenous people are under 20 years of age.
- 86.5% of all Torres Strait Islanders live on the mainland, and of these, 63.4% live in Queensland.

Human geography: proportion Aboriginal



ABS 2008

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
Slide

23% of the Queensland Indigenous population live in the greater Brisbane area.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have tried to make their mark and claim spaces and places in urban locations. In some areas it is more visible than in other areas. Urban content can be seen in a range of mediums.



Pamela Croft (1990) *Living in the City*

Some Issues

- Lack of positive identity affirmation within many environments and broader society.
- Problematic portrayal of Indigenous people in the media.
- An Australian population that sees Indigenous people as 'out there in communities' or the 'real Indigenous people live on communities'. Makes those in urban locals like visiting 'non-locals' or 'strangers'.
- Invisibility in broader population.
- Exotic parts of culture wanted – dancing, painting, singing, reading stories.
- 'multiple identities'.

Future

- Greater emphasis on urban issues.
- More of the same.
- New ways of working with Indigenous peoples in different contexts and different environments.
- Need more emphasis on the analytical and conceptual and not just the statistics to inform us.

Acknowledgements

- Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRCAH) – funding to attend NAIS 2009 Conference.
- National Health & Medical Research Council (NH&MRC) – funding my Post-Doctoral Fellowship.
- Dept. Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, Monash University.
- Indigenous Studies Research Network, Queensland University of Technology (QUT).
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) – Supporting Fellowship in Melbourne for 6months.
- Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC).